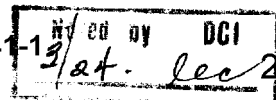


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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS



FAR EAST COMMAND

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

8 March 1952.

Dear Bedell:

I shall be genuinely distressed if my letter has seemed to you in the slightest degree destructively critical of the CIA, or has reflected in the slightest degree on your own great personal contribution. I shall feel likewise if I have added in any way to your great burden.

The purpose was and remains to find ways of achieving greater success in a very complex and difficult undertaking of fundamental importance to our people.

I have not the slightest desire to minimize the shortcomings past and present of this theatre. Above all, I want to assure you there is not here the slightest intention to enlarge the responsibilities and functions of the Far East Command by encroachment on responsibilities and functions already assigned the CIA. I deplore that any responsible individual here should allege otherwise, for the allegation is completely without foundation in fact. The action of the individual whose report you were kind enough to pass to me is all the more regrettable since he had personally assured me that the mutual confidence, mutual understanding, respect and confidence between him and my Intelligence chief was eminently satisfactory.

The heart of this matter -- coordination and cooperation in the field -- seems to me to rest upon an indispensable atmosphere of mutual confidence and trust. You will have that personally from me and the CIA from the Far East Command.

I have taken up by Eyes Only message with Van Fleet the question of relieving [ ] and shall report to you as soon as I get his views. My feeling at the moment is to fully support any recommendation you make to the Department of the Army for [ ] release to you, subject to the raising of some unforeseen cogent reasons by Van Fleet and subject to our having done everything possible here to insure that [ ] which he so well merits.

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Army review(s) completed.

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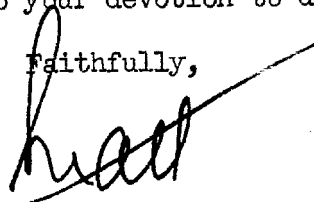
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This comes to you sealed, by the secure hand of Rube Jenkins.

I want to give much more careful thought to your letter and shall probably reply soon in more detail.

With great admiration, and the earnest hope that you will not sacrifice your health to your devotion to duty,

Faithfully,



M. B. RIDGWAY,  
General, United States Army.

General Walter B. Smith  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington 25, D. C.

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